Statement-III

Details of Financial Assistance provided by Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation for production and Demonstration of compost

(0 Under the Macro Management of Agriculture scheme, Government is providing financial assistance for setting up of mechanized compost plants for conversion of bio-degradable city waste into compost with a capacity of minimum 100 Tonnes per day (TPD) upto 1/3 rd of the estimated cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh for machinery and building only.

(ii) The Government has also taken up a new scheme on National Project on Organic Farming from October, 2004. Under this scheme subsidy for setting up of organic input production unit @25% of the project cost up to a maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh per unit for fruit & vegeable waste compost units and Rs. 1.50 lakh per unit for Vermiculture hatcheries is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Co-operative Develoment Corporation (NCDC). Under the scheme Rs. 6.00 core and Rs. 7.85 crore for setting up 15 fruit & vegetable waste compost units and 523 Vermiculture hatcheries respectively have been sanctioned up to March, 2007.

(iii) Apart from setting up of organic input production units, financial assistance is also being provided for demonstration on farmer's field on use of organic inputs ncluding Vermi compost/city compost and enriched biogas slurry.

(iv) Financial assistance is being provided under National Horticulture Mission for setting up of vermi compost up to Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary.

Improvement in mining sector

*258. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to achieve consistent 9-10 per cent GDP growth, the mineral industry should also grow consistently at a level of 13-14 per cent.

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take in the mineral sector, to meet the targets of GDP growth; '

(c) whether current situation of mineral industry in the country is grim for steel sectors with slow supply of associated raw materials needed for this captive use; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard, to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the Economic Outlook for the year 2007-08, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 9% in 2007-08 and the GDP growth in the mining sector is expected to be 5.5% in the same period. The mining & quarrying sector has recorded an average growth of 5.4 in the last three years.

(b) The Government has identified areas for investment in survey and exploration modernization programme, Science & Technology programme, Research and Development programme, Human Resource Development and Infrastrucrure Development in the non coal, non-fuel mineral sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.